

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /098 W

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R 161345Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1416

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN GV US

SUBJECT: GUINEAN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION

REF: CONAKRY 1076

1. BUTTES REPRESENTATIVE FRANK WALSH TOLD EMBASSY DECEMBER 15 THAT OFFSHORE DRILLING FOR SOGUIP, JOINT GUINEAN-US PETROLEUM COMPANY, NOW EXPECTED TO START IN FEBRUARY 1976. WALSO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VISIT TO US, ACCOMPANIED BY VANCE T. GREENE, REPRESENTATIVE OF OCEAN DRILLING EXPLORATION COMPANY (ODECO) OF NEW ORLEANS. ODECO DRILLING RIG AND CREW WILL BE BROUGHT TO CONAKRY FROM ADRIATIC.

2. THIS DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWS LONG PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY, BUTTES' APPARENT INABILITY TO FIND SUITABLE RIG AND REPORTEDLY ALSO DIFFICULTIES IN FINANCING OPERATION. HALCO PRESIDENT HARRY FAWCETT, ON RECENT VISIT TO CONAKRY FOR CBG BOARD MEETING, TOLD EMBASSY THAT BUTTES HAD APPROACHED HALCO FOR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION, BUT THAT HALCO WAS NOT INTERESTED. GUINEAN MINISTER OF MINES, LAMINE TOURE ALSO PROPOSED FINANCIAL

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ASSISTANCE TO REPRESENTATIVE OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK (KESNNETH

LUSSIER) DURING LUSSIER'S RECENT VISIT. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOW PARTIALLY RESOLVED.

3. WALSH AND GREENE VISITED CONAKRY THIS TIME PRIMARILY TO INFORM GOG OF DRILLING SCHEDULE. GREENE ALSO MAKING PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF CONAKRY PORT AND OTHER LOGISTIC FACILITIES. THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE MOUSSA DIATITE (PRESIDENT OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAS AND OF SOGUIP) JUST AS LATTER DEPARTING CONAKRY FOR VISIT TO CUBA, JAMICA AND US. DIAKITE HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT DELAY IN BEGINNING OPERATION, AND ACCORDING TO WALSH WAS DELIGHTED AT NEWS. HARROP

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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